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I, JANENE PEISKER, TEAM LEADER EXAMINATION SUPPORT AND SALES hereby certify that annexed is a true copy of the Provisional specification in connection with Application No. 2002952484 for a patent by CREATIVE SOFTWARE SOLUTIONS PTY LTD as filed on 06 November 2002.

WITNESS my hand this
Twentieth day of November 2003

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'J. K. + C.' or similar, written over a horizontal line.

JANENE PEISKER
TEAM LEADER EXAMINATION
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Software Solutions, Glenhaven, Sydney.

invention disclosed herein relates to the prevention of theft of work accessible devices.

Previously, this has been performed through security measures relating to the whole site, or providing each item of equipment with an alarm. These methods have disadvantages, including the requirement of additional technology for each hardware item, or the expense of maintaining physical security around the site.

The invention disclosed herein aims to ameliorate or substantially overcome the above disadvantages of the prior art.

The invention has the components :

hardware items requiring protection, able to exchange data with other hardware or able to be modified to exchange data;
~~coordinating hardware item, which exchanges data with the items~~
requiring hardware protection, and takes action if such an item does not exchange data.

It is noted that while the hardware items normally exchange data, the invention may operate using periodic one way data flows without exchange of data of the type such.

Advantageously, the following enhancements may be made to the invention :

Known network approaches may be used to facilitate the data exchange. Known network protocols (eg. 'ping') normally used for diagnostic purposes may be used to facilitate the data exchange. Encrypted packets may be exchanged to prevent theft through substitution. Hardware manufacturer device identification numbers may be used to prevent theft through substitution. The coordinating device may be distributed so each hardware item (or a subset of the total number of devices) is able to check for absence of other hardware items and take action. Segmenting software into different components/pluggable modules to providing flexibility in dealing with

- different hardware requiring monitoring
- different means for generating alarms and notifying local or remote operators of hardware absence
 - for example sending an SMS message to an operator's mobile phone.
- providing means for only generating alarm conditions, or log entries of variable status, based on the time of day to allow changing the network configuration by technicians.

a user interface allowing configuration of the hardware requiring monitoring, the times during which it is monitored, and the alarms and/or logs generated.

allowing monitoring of the coordinating hardware item externally.

providing administrative functions such as reports in the user interface if an alarm is inadvertently triggered, facilitating cancellation of said alarm after notification of the alarm to user or other person and

the receipt of a PIN or other means.

The invention might also be subject to modifications as would be known to a worker versed in the art.